

REMARKS

Introduction

By this Amendment, claims 59, 60, 66-68, 86-88 and 169 are cancelled. Thus, claims 61-65, 69-85, 89-168 and 170-185 are currently pending and under examination. The Applicants have carefully and thoughtfully considered the Office Action and the comments therein. For the reasons given below, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Statutory Double Patenting

In the Office Action on page 3, claims 158-185 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 194-221 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/571,334. Claims 194-221 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/571,334 have been cancelled. Thus, this rejection is rendered moot.

Nonstatutory Double Patenting

In the Office Action on pages 4-5, claims 59-157 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 59-163 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/571,334. In response, a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/571,334 is concurrently filed herewith. Thus, this rejection is rendered moot.

Conclusion

Therefore, because all rejections have been overcome, it is submitted that claims 61-65, 69-85, 89-168 and 170-185 are allowable. As such, allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michael A. Sartori, Ph.D.

Registration No. 41,289

Kavita B. Lepping

Registration No. 54,262

VENABLE LLP

P.O. Box 34385

Washington, D.C. 20043-9998

Telephone: (202) 344-4000

Telefax: (202) 344-8300

MAS/KBL
724099